

PUBLISHED THURSDAY MORNING,
By RUSSELL EATON,
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EZEKIEL HOLMES, Editor.

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MAINE FARMER.

"Our Home, our Country, and our Brother Man."

Sheep from Vermont.

We are pleased to see the care and attention which some of our flockmasters give to their sheep notwithstanding the obstacles, both physical and otherwise, which are continually arising in the way of improvement and profit. We took pains, the other day, to pay our respects to some young Vermonters, from the flocks of Mr. Jewett and others of Weybridge and vicinity, (Vt.) A company was formed last Spring, consisting of Messrs. E. Wood and N. Foster of Winthrop, Moses Taber of Vassalboro', and Geo. Williamson of Pittston, all careful and experienced woolgrowers in Kennebec, for the purpose of obtaining some of the stock of the famous Pauliar buck, "Fortune," which is owned by Mr. Jewett, and which is represented to be a full-blood Pauliar Merino, weighing 140 lbs., and shearing, at his third fleece, *thirteen and a quarter pounds*. There is no mistake about them in point of form and good qualities of the fleece, and there cannot be a doubt that the flocks of those farmers who have thus been at the trouble and expense to obtain so good a strain of blood for crossing with them, will ere long receive a decided improvement in health, form and staple. They have a few bucks and ewes to dispose of, and we think those who wish to avoid breeding in and in too much, would do well to obtain some of them. The Vermonters, or many of them, have pursued the business of woolgrowing much more systematically than it has been done (with few exceptions) in Maine. The consequence is, better flocks. We go too much by impulse. Looking for present profit, rather than permanent profit, the sheep interest rises and falls like fancy stocks in the markets. On this principle there can be nothing like improvement, or even a desire of improvement, among our flock masters.

To-day wool is brisk, and prospects are bright for the future, and all hands rush for an increase of their flocks. Any thing and every thing is bought and turned in shelter-skeleter, to improve or degenerate, as the case may be.

To-morrow there is a flurry in the political world—wool falls, and away go the flocks. Full as much anxiety is manifested to get rid of them as there was to obtain them. How is it possible for a sheep to improve? Were it not for a very few and considerate flockmasters in our State, the sheep of Maine would all go back again to the old Mouflon or Argali stock, such as it was before they were domesticated. We hope there will be more common sense manifested by our farmers in future, and that a more uniform and consistent course will be pursued in regard to rearing and improving our sheep.

Cause of "Fire Blight" in Trees.

We have perused an address delivered before the Indiana Horticultural Society, by Rev. H. W. Beecher, on the above-mentioned disease. It was published in the Western Cultivator and other agricultural and horticultural papers. Mr. Beecher has paid much attention to the subject, and brings forward some new ideas in regard to it. It has generally been supposed that the cause of this disease, which has destroyed so many pear trees, especially in New England, was a very minute insect, called the *Scolytus Pyri*; but Mr. Beecher does not allow this to be the sole cause—indeed, he says it is the cause only of a disease which results from girdling the trees as the insect in question does. The true cause of the fire blight he attributes to the effect of suddenly freezing or chilling the sap, late in the fall, while the branches or twigs are growing thrifly. This checks the circulation of the sap. It becomes viscid, and in the spring and early part of summer it begins to ooze out of the bark, and as the downward current commences, it descends and causes a gradual decay of the tree until death seizes over the whole.

We copy the following paragraphs from the Western Cultivator, which will give his views in regard to the mode by which freezing affects the tree and produces death.

The effect of freezing and thawing upon the tissues and sap vessels is better known. Congestion is accompanied with expansion; the tender vessels are either burst or lacerated; the excitability of the parts is impaired, or destroyed; the air is expelled from the serous cavities, and forced into the passages for fluids; and lastly, the tubes for the conveyance of fluids are obstructed by a thickening of their sides. The fruit trees in the fall of 1843, were, then, brought into a morbid state—the sap thickened and disengaged the passages lacerated, obstructed, and probably, in many instances, burst. The sap, elaborated, and now passing down in an injured state, would descend slowly, by reason of its insipidity, the torpidity of the parts, and the injured condition of the vessels. The grosser parts naturally the most sluggish, would tend to lodge and gradually collect at the junction of fruit spurs, the forks of branches, or wherever the condition of the sap vessels favored a lodgment. In some cases the passages are wholly obstructed; in others, only partially so. Some grafted limbs on trees were killed, while the remainder of the tree that had not been engrafted, escaped.

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NO. 2.

place, it is as effectually stopped as if the branch were girdled. For, the sap which had lodged there, would, by the winds and sun, be entirely dried.

This would not be the case if the sap was good and the vitality of the wood unimpaired; but where the sap and vessels are both diseased, the sun affects the branch on the tree just as it would if severed and lying on the ground. There will, therefore, be found on the tree, branches with spots where the bark is dead and shrunk away below the level of the surrounding bark; and at these points, the current downward is wholly stopped. Only the outward part, however, is dead, while the *alburnum*, or sap-wood, is but partially injured. Through the alburnum, then, the sap from the roots passes up, entering the leaf, and men are astonished to see a branch seemingly dead in the middle, growing thrifly at its extremity. No insect-theory can account for this case; yet it is perfectly plain and simple, when we consider that there are two currents of sap, one of which may be destroyed—and the other, for a limited time, goes on. The blight, under this aspect, is nothing but ringing or decorticating effected by diseased sap, destroying the parts in which it lodges, and then itself drying up. The branch will grow, fruit will set, and frequently become larger and finer, flavored than usual.

But in a second class of cases, the downward current comes to a point where the diseased sap had affected only a partial lodgment. The vitality of the neighboring parts was preserved, and the diseased fluids have been undrained by wind or sun, and remain more or less impregnated. The descending current meets and takes up more or less of this diseased matter, according to the particular condition of the sap. Wherever the elaborated sap passes, after touching this diseased region, it will carry its poison along with it, down the trunk, and by the lateral vessels, in toward the pith. We may suppose that a violence, which would destroy the health of the outer parts, would to some degree rupture the inner sap-vessels. By this, or by some unknown way, the diseased sap is taken into the inner, upward current, and goes into the general circulation. If it be in a delta state, or in small quantities, languor and decline will be the result; if in large quantities and concentrated, the branch will die suddenly, and the odor of it will be that of frost-bitten vegetation. All the different degrees of mortality result from the quantity and quality of the diseased sap which is taken into circulation. In conclusion, then, where, in one class of cases, the foulculent malady was, in the fall, so virulent as to destroy the parts where it lodged and was then dried by exposure to wind and sun, the branch above will live, even through the summer, but perish the next winter; and the spring afterwards, standing bare amid green branches, the cultivator may suppose the branch to have blighted that spring, although the cause of death was seated eighteen months before. When, in the other class of cases, the diseased sap is less virulent in the fall, but probably growing worse through the spring, a worse blight ensues, and a more sudden mortality.

We well remember the effects of frost on apple and other trees, in the fall of 1831. The autumn in Maine was very mild, and vegetation continued active late in the season, when there came a severe and sudden "cold snap," and froze the sap in the lower branches.

Next year there was great complaint among orchardists. Some trees were wholly ruined—some partially so. Some grafted limbs on trees were killed, while the remainder of the tree that had not been engrafted, escaped.

The remedies which he recommends are the following.

So long as the blight was believed to be of insect-origin, it appeared totally irremediable. If the foregoing reasoning be found correct, it will be plain that the scourge can only be occasional; that it may be in a degree prevented; and to some extent remedied where it exists.

1. We should begin by selecting for pear orchards a warm, light, rich, dry and early soil. This will secure an early growth and ripe wood, before winter sets in.

2. So soon as observation has determined what kinds are naturally early-growers and early-ripeners of wood, such should be selected; as they will be least likely to come under those conditions in which blight occurs.

3. Wherever orchards are already planted; or where a choice in soils cannot be had, the cultivator may know by the last of August or September, whether a fall-growth is to be expected. To prevent it, I suggest immediate root-pruning. This will benefit the tree at any rate; and will probably, by immediately restraining growth, prevent blight.

4. Whenever blight has occurred, I know of one remedy but free and early cutting. In some cases it will remove all diseased matter; in some, it will alleviate only; but in bad blight, there is neither in this, nor, in any thing else that I am aware of, any remedy.

There are two additional subjects with which I shall close this paper.

1. This blight is not to be confounded with winter-killing. In the winter of either 1837 or 1838, in March a deep snow fall (in this region); and was immediately followed by brilliant sun. Thousands of nursery trees perished in consequence, but without putting out leaves, or lingering. It is a familiar fact to orchardists that severe cold followed by warmth produce a bursting of the bark along the trunk; but usually at the surface of the ground.

2. I call the attention of cultivators to the disease of the Peach tree, called "The Yellows." I have not spoken of it as the same disease as the blight in the pear and apple, only because I did not wish to embarrass this subject by too many issues. I will only say that it is the opinion of the most intelligent cultivators among us, that the yellows are nothing but the development of the blight according to the peculiar habits of the Peach Tree. I mention it that observation may be directed to the facts.

HENRY W. BEECHER.

Excellent Apples.

We would acknowledge the receipt of some excellent specimens of a variety of apples from friend Daniel Taber, the nursery man in Vassalboro'. These were sent to give us some taste and knowledge of a few of the kinds which he cultivates. They were very fair and of excellent flavor.

We gave a list of some of the apples which he has in his nursery, in a former number, to which we would refer our readers. His price for apple trees, is twenty cents each, and it seems to us that is very reasonable indeed.

WASH 'EM CLEAN.—They have established bathing houses for the poor, in some parts of England. This is right. Keep the outside man clean and then fill the inside with roast beef and potatoes, and they will be comfortable throughout.

*Lindley's Horticulture \$1, 82.

MAINE FARMER.



Mechanic Arts, &c.

New Mill Dog.

We have examined a new breed of mill dogs. Every one knows the old mode of holding logs in a mill while they are being sawed, and what a thrashing and pounding and prying there is, when a heavy log is on, every time you wish to set it for a new cut. But the new one will do it "just as easy." All you have to do is to lift up a brake and let it down again, and it is all done as true as a "jigger's eye." No knocking and smiting with the end of the bar—no noise or fuss. Any boy big enough to swing a batstick can do it. If you want one for your mill, L. G. Johnson, just across the river, will make you a neat one. If you have a saw-mill, be sure and get a set, before you maul your old cant-dogs all up by battering them a hundred times a day.

The Improved Nautilus or Safety Girdle.

This is an important article to travelers. The opinion of those who have tested its qualities, together with an examination of its construction and mode of operation, induces a belief that, in practice, it will fully sustain all that is claimed for it. The Nautilus is a foreign invention, and has obtained a high reputation in Europe, having been adopted in the English and French marines, by order of their respective governments. In the hands of our ingenious countrymen its mode of construction has been materially changed and improved. It is secured by Letters Patent, both for the original invention and the improvements. It is inflated by a single act of putting it around the chest, and when secured there, the wearer cannot immerse his head in the water, consequently drowning is impossible. Its superiority over the ordinary air bag, consists, first, in its being inflated in a moment of time without the aid of the breath. Secondly, when inflated, the water proof covering is distended by an ingenious apparatus within, and permanently remains so whilst around the chest, or otherwise elongated. Being thus distended, and unable to collapse from external pressure, the air within has no tendency to escape, consequently, if perforated with numerous small holes, it retains its buoyancy for a long time.

Thirdly, the compact form to which it may be reduced when not in use.

In view of the immense destruction of human life on our inland seas, rivers, and Atlantic coast, it ranks as an indispensable article for the carpet-bag, or overcoat pocket of the traveler.

In all kinds of boat service, in stress of weather, landing through surf upon the beach, &c., the Nautilus cannot fail to be essentially serviceable. Two dozen of them extended around a long boat or launch, converts them into perfect life boats, which can neither capsize or sink. This can be accomplished with but little preparatory arrangement for making them secure. The recent loss of the ship Alabamian, and the rescue of the passengers and crew by almost a miracle, would have illustrated the use of the Nautilus, in converting a launch into a life boat.

The revenue service, in our harbors, and along our coast, should undoubtedly be supplied with them. The Nautilus may be examined at Leary & Co's, No. 5, Astor House; S. C. Smith & Sons, 79, John street; or at the Factory, 83, Anthony street, N. Y.

[New York Farmer and Mechanic.]

LOWELL.—We are indebted to a friend for the statistics of Lowell manufactures; from which we learn that the whole amount of capital invested in manufactures in that place is over \$11,000,000.

Bales cotton used per annum, 62,040
Pounds of wool, 1,006,000
Tons of anthracite coal, 12,500
Gallons of oil, 67,849
Spindles, 201,076
Yards of cloth made per week, 142,500

The amount of wool, 1,000,000 lbs., consumed in the Lowell factories, if we allow 3 lbs. to a sheep, would require for its production more than 330,000 sheep. The same wool factories consume in the same period 3,000,000 teazles, another agricultural production, which yields a handsome profit to the producer.

THE LARGEST POWER LOOM SHED IN THE WORLD.—Messrs. Ainsworth & Son, cotton-spinners, of this town, have now nearly completed their most extraordinary power loom shed. The building covers one and three-eighths of an acre of ground, and will hold 1,650 pairs of looms, which will require 825 hands to superintend them, and 75 horse power to drive them. The shafting connected with this monstrous shed is now finished; its length is 6,500 feet. When the whole of the looms are in motion, they will require 28,000 feet of strapping. There are 3,000 sets of gas piping, and 825 lights will be required. The roof contains 340 windows, or sky lights, and is supported by 325 pillars. When the whole of the looms are in motion, they will turn off fifty yards of cloth per minute! [Preston Chronicle.]

INTERESTING TO COMPASS MANUFACTURERS.—We learn through the London Mechanics' Magazine, that Dr. Scoresby found it impossible, by the ordinary processes, to communicate the full charge of magnetic influence to very hard cast or shear steel bars, or such as were best suited for retaining ore, finds himself, before middle age, stripped of his ancestral domains and compelled to labor for a livelihood during the remainder of his life; while the poor and uneducated boy, by dint of industry, intelligence, and economy, rises rapidly through all the gradations of emolument and rank which the country and its institutions afford. Our republican condition has an absolute and ever-operating principle of equalization among the various parts which make up the mass; like the hydrostatic law, which compels the liquid in a series of vessels connected at their base, to part with just such a proportion of its fluid as will restore the exact level of the whole, when from any cause a quantity has been added to or subtracted from either. But in the body politic it is a work of time, and frequently of great loss and inconvenience, and as the mass can not immediately change their pursuits, a just policy would seem to prescribe that every contemplated change of system in national affairs should be made with a reference to entire permanence in the end, and all practicable moderation in the means by which it is to be effected.

When changes in national pursuits are required, as they are in the progress of events, our statesmen should look with an enlightened forecast, into the future, and determine what channels labor and capital shall pursue, with the greatest prospect of reward, and the least probability of interference hereafter. Vaccination in national affairs is the great bane to be feared in a republic where universal suffrage prevails, and it must be confessed, our own has given some signal examples of it. [Am. Agr. Remedy for Rot in Potatoes.

A friend calling upon us a few days since, in the course of conversation gave us the following account of his method of saving his potatoes from the rot: During the last two years I have examined numerous fields, and invariably found the vines early in the season completely covered with a species of flea; at a late period the tops of the vines appeared brown prematurely. On cutting them open I discovered a small insect, having numerous legs, and I think they sucked the sap which should have gone to the nourishment of the tubers, and the rot consequently ensued.

In the year 1843 I planted a field of several acres in drills, harrowed the ground level, and top dressed it with lime and charcoal dust. The yield was 432 bushels per acre; at the same time the potatoes throughout the neighborhood were decayed. This year I planted the same seed in the following manner: The ground was thrown into drills, and manured heavily; the potatoes were cut into sets of single eyes fourteen days before required for planting, and covered with plaster and lime; they were then placed in the drill, nine inches apart, tops, centres, and ends separately, to mark the difference in growth; and each alternate three rows then covered with different substances, such as lime, sulphate of ammonia, silicate of potash, &c. When they were all sound except a few rows on which nothing had been used but the manure, and these were decayed, although received only three weeks before planting directly from France. The only reason that I can give why my potatoes have escaped the rot, is that the above substances used in dressing them were offensive to the insect. [Ib.]

Care of Young Stock.

The first winter for young stock is the most trying of one's lives, and extra care should always be given to them, especially in their feed. In addition to what they will eat of the finest and best of the hay, lamb and calves should have a few roots daily, except in very cold weather. In feeding them be careful not to give so many as to scour them. It may be well also to feed the lambs a gill each day of beans, peas, oats, or corn, which are preferred in the order mentioned. For calves, shorts or bran is preferable to grain. Calves ought to have two quarts of oats per day, except occasionally changing this feed to three quarts of bran. Oil meal is most excellent food in small quantities for all sorts of stock, especially calves and pigs. It keeps the bowel free and healthy, and makes them eat their other food with a greater relish. For shelter, we prefer open sheds for young stock to close stables, except in very snowy weather. A roomy yard, well protected from winds, should always be attached for exercise, of which they are more fond than older animals, and it is more necessary for them. Another thing which is greatly disregarded; young stock ought always to be sheltered by themselves; they thus escape injury from those more grown, and have a fair chance at their food. Calves must not stand upon a plank floor, or indeed a hard footing of any kind, the first winter; their pastern joints are disproportionately weak during the first year, which makes an elastic footing requisite for them. [Am. Agriculturist.]

VIGOLE'S CARPET TAPESTRY.—ANOTHER APPLICATION OF INDIA RUBBER.—This tapestry is made on the principle of the ancient Mosaics, and without either painting or coloring, all the effect is produced by worsted thread, about one eighth of an inch long, standing vertically one end is seen, the other is cemented by India rubber to a cloth. The Lon. Mag. of Science remarks that from the facility of reproduction, this fabric is likely to come into general use for carts, rugs, curtains, tables, and chair covers, &c.

MANNA—IMPORTANT TO DRUGGISTS.—It has been shown by one of the members of the Parisian Pharmaceutical Society that starch sugar has been employed for the preparation of a spurious manna, having some physical resemblance to the fragments of genuine manna in tears.

From the Dollar Newspaper.

Time.

BY T. F. D.

Thou art great,
Old Father Time; thou hast the weight
Of many thousand years upon thy back,
And still thou goest on the same old track,
And still the old is still old.

Thou art a king,
Old Father Time; thy limit is the ring
Which doth surround the universe;
But thou art beyond
I cannot now release thee.

In this uneven rhyme,
And so we'll pass that verse
Until some other time.

Thou governest the brute,
And every thing that grows;
And every thing is at all material;
Yet every mortal knows
There is one thing, the soul ethereal,
Which thou canst never harm,
Thy power can never reach;

Maine Farmer.

AUGUSTA, THURSDAY, JANUARY 9, 1845.

Who Grows the Finest Wool?

We should like to know that? Friend Hill, Editor of our Farmers' Monthly Visitor, says the man lives in New Hampshire and feeds his flocks, not exactly on the "Grampian Hills," but some full as large and as fertile, called Kearsage, but he don't give us his name. We mean to have some specimens of the wool of his flock, though, name or no name. Who raises the finest wool in Maine? That's more than we know, but as fine as any that we have seen is grown by Mr. Jess Wadsworth, a thrifty old farmer, who lives on Moose Hill in East Livermore, Kennebec county. He keeps a small flock of Saxons, and a flock of mixed Saxons and Merinoes. We made a flying call upon him the other day, and took a peep at his flock. He is not a man who pampers his flocks and herds, as the manner of some is, but he nevertheless gives them enough of good substantial food. He has some good grade Durhams—both to keep and to sell. One of his Bulls took a premium at the last Kennebec County Cattle Show, and he says he'll sell him for fifty dollars.—His price for Saxons is five dollars per head.

We should like to receive specimens of fine wool from different flocks in the State. Why could n't we get up quite a *woolen museum*. If you send us a specimen of the fleece from your favorite sheep or lambs, take one lock from the fore quarter about midway of the shoulder, and one from the hind quarter; wrap it up in such a manner that it shall not be soiled nor stretched. We will put it in a glass case and keep it for the inspection of the curious in such matters.

A friend at our elbow says Mr. Gleason, of Farmington, has the finest wool.

How the people rule. The editor of the Massachusetts Ploughman knows a thing or two about politics. He's been there and seen it all. When a ruler is to be made in the shape of a President, Governor or Representative, he says the way is this: "Notice is given that a caucus is to be held on a certain day in a shire town, and all the little towns are invited to send delegates to the central caucus. Then sub-caucuses are held to appoint delegates; half a dozen chaps assemble and choose one of their number to attend at the shire town; he carries with him a certificate, from the presiding officer, of his election as a delegate, and is received and acts. A nomination thus made is binding on the party, and we bethide the politician who dares disobey." "Them's um," friend Bremister, and him's up and dressed first, carries the day, and that's the way the people rule.

REPORTS OF LEGISLATIVE PROCEEDINGS. We may as well acknowledge our indebtedness to the Thrice-Weekly Age, for what we publish regard to Legislative proceedings. The enterprising publisher has incurred great expense in order to give the public early information of what the Legislature is doing. We hope that he will obtain subscribers enough to indemnify him for all his trouble and expense, but we doubt if he does. Now, it is n't right for one man to lose money for your benefit. So, Mr. Democrat, we invite you to walk up and subscribe; and you, Mr. Whig, are in duty bound to watch your opponents, so we invite you to walk up and subscribe; and you, Mr. Liberty man, are in duty bound to watch both the others, so we invite you to sign your name to friend Johnson's list. By this means he may be made whole.

NEW YORK FARMER AND MECHANIC.—This publication, heretofore published every fortnight, by Fleet & Starr, New York, in an octavo form, has been changed to a weekly folio paper. A monthly is to be published containing all the valuable practical matter of the weekly paper.

This paper is rendered more valuable by being the organ of the American Institute and New York Farmers' Club, whose weekly *conversations* are fully reported in it, and afford a fund of practical information. We have long been conversant with Mr. Fleet's writings as Editor of an Agricultural paper, and can testify to his zeal and good sense in that vocation. We shall be often indebted to the Farmer and Mechanic, for much valuable information.

A FORTY MILE GUN. Colt, the inventor of the sub-marine battery, has been experimenting still further with his battery, and proved that he can blow up any craft, from a 74 to a cockle boat, "sky high, sir," at the distance of forty miles, "just as easy" as he can ten rods. He offers to fortify all the harbors in this way, at a comparative small cost to "Uncle Sam." If he should do it, our *enemies*, as they come along, must look out for that.

AMERICAN TRAVELLER. This valuable paper has gone into new hands. It is published in Boston, both weekly and semi-weekly, by E. A. Upton & Co., and edited by Ferdinand Andrews. The first number of the new volume has just been received. The editor states in his "inaugural" that the Traveller has been long known as a neutral paper, never having been in any sense a partisan sheet. In this respect, it will accord with the taste and feelings of the present editor, as well as with the demand of the times, to make no change.

ALBANY CULTIVATOR. This sterling old friend of the plough comes out in a new dress, and is brimful of usefulness. We should like to shew it to some of our farmers who have not yet seen it—call and take a peep at it.

AMERICAN AGRICULTURIST is another first rate Agricultural Journal, not so old in years as the Cultivator, but equal in wisdom and practical agriculture. Friend Allen, the editor, is indefatigable in his exertions to make his magazine a standard work.

GENESEE FARMER has also put on a new dress, and has changed hands. B. F. Smith & Co. are proprietors. It is a monthly, and takes high rank among farming periodicals.

CROWDED OUT. Much miscellaneous matter has been crowded out from our columns to-day, on account of publishing the Governor's Message and the proceedings of the Legislature. We want to keep you all up with the times, and we therefore trust you will excuse the omission of the "sundries" and stories alluded to.

PIGIANA. Mr. Ephraim Wood of Winthrop, recently slaughtered a shoot, eight months and fifteen days old, which weighed 357 pounds. This is gaining one pound and four-tenths, or nearly a pound and a half each day from the time of its birth to that of its death. An industrious pig that.

GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE.

Gentlemen of the Senate
and House of Representatives:

The favorable circumstances under which we are assembled, are calculated to awaken emotions of gratitude and pride to the Supreme and Beneficent Ruler, who influences the destinies, and controls the affairs, of both nations and individuals.

In entering upon the duties of our respective stations, it becomes us humbly to acknowledge His paternal goodness—to invoke upon the government and people of our State and nation, His continued favor, and, on the result of our coming labor, His approbation and blessing.

To all classes of our fellow-citizens, the past year has been one of moderate, but solid success; commerce has measurably revived from its languor; industry has been gradually resuming its wonted activity; and all the channels of profitable employment have invited and remunerated the labor of men.

To these gratifying indications of returning prosperity, have been added the higher, and more material enjoyments of general health and profound tranquility; a productive harvest has filled our granaries, and a pervading sentiment of confidence, and security exists among the people.

Surrounded by these multiplied tokens of the public welfare, you will enter upon the performance of your legislative duties, under circumstances peculiarly favorable. I trust we may be justified in anticipating, that these duties will be neither arduous nor embarrassing; and that, in the absence of agitating questions of public policy to distract your councils, the various subjects of local interest, which the wants of a growing and active population continually suggest, may receive your careful and undivided attention.

The law passed at the last session, can be regarded as little less than a virtual abandonment of the whole system; or if under its operation, the forms of an organization are still preserved, the system will be without vitality, and of little practical use. Defective and unequal as many of the features of the pre-existing law may have been, I cannot believe, that its entire demolition was either wise or expedient.

It is true that the country is now in a state of professed repose, and the amicable relations generally existing with foreign nations, warrant the hope that these peaceful and friendly appearances may be solid and durable. Neither is there reason to apprehend that any domestic tumult will disturb our internal tranquility, nor any organized opposition to the laws, requiring the employment of a military force.

But however remote the contingency may now appear, which would call for military preparation, we should be deaf to all the lessons of experience, if we failed to consider, that it might suddenly and unexpectedly force itself upon us. Is it then politic or wise, to be wholly unprepared for those at attack from without, or disturbances within, which the history of all countries teaches us, it may not at all times, be possible to prevent?

It is not my purpose to present any distinct or precise plan. But in view of the considerations above adverted to, I feel bound to suggest the importance of providing for the organization of a military force, less inert and impracticable, than the existing Militia, under the present law, must inevitably prove.

Of the operation of the act of 23d March last, to which I have referred, and of the general condition of the Militia, the report of the Adjutant General, herewith transmitted, will advise you.

I also communicate the Annual Reports of the Superintendent and Directors of the Asylum for the Insane. By the Act of 22d of March 1843, the Superintendence and management of this institution were principally confided to a board of Trustees, appointed by the Governor and Council, and holding their offices for the term of three years.—Under the administration of this board, the affairs of the institution appear to have been judiciously conducted, and the humane purposes contemplated by its establishment, satisfactorily accomplished.—Selected as they are, from different sections of the State, and wholly separated from local or political influences, it is believed that the concerns of the institution may be more properly entrusted to a board thus constituted, than to bodies exercising at the seat of Government, legislative or executive functions. The number of patients now at the Asylum is unusually large; and during the past year the expenses of the establishment, with the exception of the salaries paid to the officers, have been discharged from its own resources.

Several of my predecessors have invited the attention of the Legislature to the subject of our Common Schools, and have earnestly inculcated the importance of adopting some additional means of extending their usefulness, and elevating their character.

The embarrassed condition of our finances, joined perhaps with a too confident belief in the efficacy of our present system, may have restrained former Legislatures from authorizing additional expenditures for the advancement of these interesting institutions.

When we reflect, however, that upon those primary seminaries the rising generation principally depend, for the measure of education which is necessary to qualify them for usefulness in after life, whatever may be our peculiar condition, the means required to render them worthy the high and enviable purposes for which they were instituted, should be cheerfully granted.

But it is not merely, nor perhaps chiefly, by the additional expenditure of money, that the improvement of our common schools can be most effectually promoted. A very large sum is now annually expended, much of which, in the opinion of intelligent observers, is wasted and misapplied.

A defective organization—the absence of watchful and efficient supervision, without which the best contrived system will prove imperfect—the acknowledged deficiency of teachers, properly qualified for a vocation so important, and the difficulty of obtaining the information, which recent experience and observation have accumulated, are impediments to the advancement of our common schools much more formidable than the want of pecuniary means.

That the system, as now conducted, produces incalculable good, is universally admitted. That it accomplishes all of which it is capable, or all which the growing wants of the age require, the concurrent testimony of its most intelligent friends sufficiently proves. To seek out, and correct whatever defect exists in its organization; to encourage and stimulate to greater usefulness its most perfect features, and to enlarge the sphere and improve the character of all its operations, is an employment well worthy the highest abilities, and the most devoted patriotism.

In no way can the sum of human happiness be more certainly augmented, or the principles of virtue, morality, and freedom so effectually implanted in the hearts of our children.

In presenting the subject to the consideration of the Legislature, I have felt the greatest confidence, in as much as the path of improvement and success is not new or untried. In several of our sister States, plans for the improvement of their common schools, have from time to time been suggested, and matured, and the best exertions of the highest and most gifted minds, enlisted in their service.

In the State of New York, the attention of the Legislature to this subject has been constant and unremitting. The documents which at various periods, have been published by its authority, as well as the annual reports of its State Superintendent, evince a research and ability, and devotion to the cause, which have essentially contributed to the formation of that earnest and decidedly public sentiment, in relation to common schools, which now prevails in that enlightened and powerful community.

Through the agency of a State Superintendent, aided by local assistants, one of which is appointed in each county, and by the Superintendents chosen by the several towns, a watchful and salutary supervision over all the schools is constantly maintained, and their condition and progress particularly noted.

Copies of reports, containing the results of personal examination, and abounding in valuable information,

are annually transmitted to the State Superintendents. By the publication of these reports—by the gratuitous distribution of a highly valuable periodical, devoted to the cause of education, and by addresses and lectures from the county superintendents, the public attention is awakened—a spirit of emulation excited, and increased vigor and activity imparted to the system.

In Massachusetts also, with a system similar to our own, many improvements have been introduced, which have given new energy and efficiency to these nurseries of morality and learning. The establishment of a board of education, and the institution of Normal schools, for the instruction of teachers, are among the means adopted in our present State, to advance the cause of popular education. The Secretary of that board has devoted his time for some years, to the acquisition and dissemination of educational science, and has done much towards awakening an interest in the success of the cause, not only in his own, but in other States.

The results of these enlightened and persevering experiments, have been such as usually now from energetic and well directed efforts. Their beneficial effects are seen and acknowledged.

A few years since, an Act, embodying many of the features of the Massachusetts system, was introduced into the Legislature, and if I am not mistaken, received the sanction of one of its branches.

It is to be hoped, that under the influence of which a revenue will soon awaken the jealousy of those, at whose

though gradual, would afford, their progress.

In a government like ours, where the influence of our citizens, would heartily rejoice. Their success is identified with our national prosperity, and their encouragement and support. Under the influence of equal laws, and with the incidental protection of which a revenue, Tax, would afford, their progress,

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Samuel Belcher had

tion forthwith for the purpose of qualifying the Governor elect was received. The House concurred. The Senate came in and the two Houses went into convention.

In CONVENTION.—Mr. Dunn of the Senate was charged with a message to the Governor elect, notifying him that the two Houses were assembled in convention, ready to administer to him the qualifying oaths.

The Governor elect, attended by the Council, came in and in the presence of the two Houses, took and subscribed the oaths required by the constitution to enable him to enter upon the discharge of his official duties; and the Secretary of State made proclamation that Hugh J. Anderson is Governor of the State for the current political year.

The convention then separated.

In THE HOUSE.—On motion of Mr. Mildram, a committee was appointed to wait on the Governor and inform him that the **House** is now in session, and ready to receive any communication he may be pleased to make. The Secretary of State then came in, and laid upon the table a written message from the Governor, which was read and 1000 copies ordered to be printed.

SATURDAY, Jan. 4.
Gentlemen of the **House of Representatives**—In entering upon the duties of the station which your popularity has assigned me, allow me to assure you that for the confidence reposed in me, I shall distinguish no difference.

With your indulgence for the errors of inexperience, and relying upon your aid to supply any deficiency, I cheerfully enter upon the duties of the Chair.

On motion of Mr. Noyes of Mt. Desert, a committee consisting of Messrs. Noyes, Perkins, of Augusta, Littlefield of Auburn, Farley of Newcastle, Gilchrist of St. George, was appointed to receive, sort and count the votes for **Messenger**. The committee reported:

Whole number of votes	136
Necessary for a choice	67
Moses McDonald had	86
William Payne	49
Phinehas Barnes	1
Scattering	1

Mr. McDonald was declared duly elected, who, on taking the chair, addressed the **House** as follows:

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Philip Phillips was accordingly declared elected. A balloting was then had for Assistant Clerk, and Nathaniel Patterson elected, he receiving 86 out of 135 ballots cast.

On motion of Mr. Perkins of Augusta, ordered, that the Clerk of the **House** be directed to invite the regularly officiating clergymen of Augusta and Hallowell, to officiate as Chaplains of the **House**, in rotation.

On motion of Mr. Brown of Bluehill, ordered, that the **House** hold but one session each day, and that the standing hour of adjournment be to 10 o'clock A. M., until otherwise ordered.

THURSDAY, Jan. 2.
IN SENATE. Mr. Rose, from the committee to wait upon the Rev. Mr. Ingraham and inform him of his election as chaplain to the **Senate**, reported that the committee had attended to that duty, and that Mr. Ingraham accepted the situation.

On motion of Mr. Dunn, ordered, that a message be sent to the **House of Representatives** informing that body that vacancies exist at the **Senate**, as follows, viz:

In the third senatorial district there are four vacancies, and Ezra B. French, Ebenezer Otis, Henry Tallman, Joseph Berry, Oscar Eaton, Algernon S. Austin, Philip M. Garcelon, and Nathan Perkins, are the constitutional candidates, to fill the same.

In the eleventh district one vacancy, and Joseph S. Monroe and Thomas S. Pullen, are the constitutional candidates, to fill the same.

In the twelfth district two vacancies, and Rufus K. J. Porter, Joseph Barrett, Abner Coburn and George C. Getchell, are the constitutional candidates, to fill the same.

In the thirteenth district one vacancy, and Moses Sherburne and Daniel Howes, are the constitutional candidates, to fill the same.

And the **Senate** propose a convention of both branches of the Legislature to be held in the Hall of the **House of Representatives** this afternoon, at half past two o'clock, for the purpose of filling the said vacancies, and ask the concurrence of the House.

Message from the **House**, non-concurring the **Senate** in its proposition for a convention this afternoon, and proposing to hold such convention at half past ten A. M., to-morrow.

This message was laid on the table.

HOUSE.—The Speaker laid before the **House** a communication from Jediah Morrill, Representative from the town of Waterville, resigning his seat.

On motion of Mr. Perkins of Augusta, ordered, that the Speaker of the **House** be directed to notify the selection of Waterville that there exists a vacancy in that Representative district, occasioned by the resignation of Jediah Morrill.

Mr. Mildram presented a communication from the committee on State Valuation, elected by the last Legislature, reporting progress. The communication having been read, Mr. Mildram moved that it be referred to a joint select committee.

TUESDAY, Dec. 31.
SENATE.—Mr. Huntington, from the committee on Commerce, reported two bills and recommended their passage, one providing for the payment of engineers and the other regulates the pay and promotion of officers in the revenue service.

A message was received from the **Senate**, announcing the death of the Hon. W. S. Fulton, late Senator of the United States from the State of Arkansas.

Mr. Cross delivered a eulogy in relation to the character of the deceased, his social virtues and his public acts; and concluded by submitting the customary resolutions, which were agreed to, and the House adjourned.

Mr. Paine moved that the communication be laid on the tablet and ordered to be printed—and after a long debate the motion was lost, 56 to 61.

The question recurred, on the motion to refer the report to a joint select committee, and after further debate, was carried, 73 to 43.

FRIDAY, Jan. 3.
IN SENATE.—Communication from the committee on valuation, came from the **House**, where it had been accepted and referred to a joint select committee.

Mr. Dunn moved that the communication be laid upon the table until the vacancies in the **Senate** were filled—the motion prevailed.

Message was sent to the **House** informing that body that the **Senate** concur in the proposition for a convention to fill vacancies in the senatorial districts, in the Hall of the **House** this morning at half past ten o'clock.

Mr. Frye, from the joint select committee to whom was referred the returns of the votes given in for Governor for the current political year, made a full report of all votes cast, and for whom, which report says, "that Hugh J. Anderson, having received four thousand and thirty-two votes more than all other persons, is constitutionally elected Governor of the State of Maine for the current political year."

The **Senate** went into Executive session and after some time spent therein, adjourned over until Thursday.

HOUSE.—Mr. Tibbets of Kentucky, wished to introduce by general consent, a proposition for the annexation of Texas. Mr. Bernard objected, and Mr. Tibbets gave notice that he would introduce his proposition on a subsequent day. Mr. Bolster, of Alabama, gave notice that at some subsequent period he would introduce a series of resolutions for annexing Texas to the United States.

These notices were entered on the journal.

Mr. J. P. Kennedy, of Maryland, from the committee on Commerce, reported a bill to alter the mode of admeasurement and adjustment of the tonnage of vessels in the service of the United States, which was referred to the committee of the whole.

Mr. Darragh, offered a resolution calling on the President for information and certain correspondence in relation to the non-payment by the Mexican Government of money due our citizens for indemnities, which was adopted.

These gentlemen were conducted to the Council chamber and duly qualified to enter upon the duties of their office.

On motion of Mr. Dunn, ordered, that a message be sent to the **House** proposing to that body a convention of both branches, to be held forthwith, in the Representatives' Hall, for the purpose of qualifying the Governor elect.

Message from the **House** concurring the proposition, and the **Senate** went into convention.

The **Senate** adjourned to meet at half past two.

AFTERNOON.—On motion of Mr. Deering, ordered, that there be a committee to wait on the Governor, and inform him the **Senate** is in session and ready to receive any communication he may be pleased to make.

A message was received from the Governor, which was read from the chair, and 300 copies ordered to be printed.

The report of the valuation committee was considered, accepted, and referred to concurrence to a joint select committee.

HOUSE.—After some unimportant business had been transacted, the **House** went into convention with the **Senate**, to fill vacancies existing at the **Senate** board, and elected the gentlemen named in the order offered in the **Senate** by Mr. Dunn—after which the convention dissolved.

The report of the committee on gubernatorial votes, declaring Hugh J. Anderson to be re-elected Governor, came from the **Senate**, and was accepted in concurrence.

A message from the **Senate**, proposing a conven-

BANGOR STATE.—The Bangor Democrat says: "There are now at work at the Piscataquis quarry, several men from the Welch quarries, who declare that the slate they are now getting out is fully equal, if not superior, to that of Wales. It works admirably, and is of good color and uniform thickness. Several tons have recently been hauled to this city, and we learn that the proprietors intend to enter largely into the business. Thus, if the Salernes won't have our shingles, they can try ours. We see no reason why our city may not become as famous in the slate trade, as is its namesake in Wales. This would soon be the case were suitable and responsible individuals to engage in the business."

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The Muse.

From Godey's Ladies' Book.

The Old Maid.

BY MRS. AMELIA B. WELBY.

Why sits she thus in solitude? her heart
Seems melting in her eye's delicious blue,—
And as it heaves, her ripe lips lie apart
As if to let its heavy throbbing through;
In her dark eye a depth of softness swells,
Deeper than that her careless girlhood wore;
And her cheek—crimsoned with the heat that tells
The rich, fair fruit is ripened to the core.

It is her thirtieth birthday! with a sigh
Her soul hath burned from youth's luxuriant bowers,
And her heart taken up the last sweet tie
That measured out its links of golden hours!
She feels her innocent soul within her star
With thoughts too wild and passing to speak;
Yet her full heart—its own interpreter—
Translates itself in silence on her cheek.

Joy's opening buds, after long gloomy flowers,
Once lighted forth within her burning track;
Oh, how beautiful in those lost hours!

And yet she does not wish to wander back!

Not she but loves in loneliness to think

On pleasures past, though never more to be:

Hope links her to the future—but the link

That binds her to the past—is Memory!

From her lone path she never turns aside,
Though passionate worshippers before her fall;

Like some pure planet in her lonely pride,

She seems to soar and beam above them all!

Not that her heart is cold! emotions new

And fresh as flowers, are with her heart-strings knitt;

And sweetly mornful pleasures wander through

Her virgin soul, and softly ripples it.

For she bathed with her heart and soul alive

To all that makes life beautiful and fair;

Sweet thoughts, like honey-bees, have made their hive

Of her soft bosom-cell, and dwelt there,—

Yet she has come to her, at last, her home.

Her soul hath learned to look beyond its gloss,—

And now she hovers, like a star, between

He deems of lover, her Saviour on the Cross!

Beneath the care of earth she does not bow,

Though often hath oft-times drained its bitter cup,

But ever wanders on with head-brown bower,

‘And eyes whose lovely lids are lifted up!

She feels that in that lovelier, happier sphere,

Her bosom yet will, bird-like, find its mate,

And all the joy it found so blithe here

Within that spirit-equal perpetuate.

Yet, sometimes o'er her trembling heart-strings thrill

Sof soft sighs, for raptures it had ne'er enjoyed;

And then she dreams of love, and strives to fill

With wild and passionate thoughts the craving void.

And thus she wanders on—half sad, half blest—

Without a mate for the pure, lonely heart,

That yearning, throbs within her virgin breast,

Never to find its lovely counterpart!

The Story Teller.

An Evening Tale.

BY CAROLINE ORNE.

“What a good evening it is for one of your stories, dear aunt Jane,” said Ruth Elwyn, a bright-eyed, rosy-cheeked damsel, as she took her sewing and sat down by the work-stand.

“It will interrupt William about his ciphering to tell stories,” replied her aunt.

“Oh, no, it will not,” said William, “I have just finished my sum, and don't feel in a mood for doing any more. As Ruth says, it is a delightful evening for stories. Only hear how the wind drives the sleet against the windows. There will be no danger of being interrupted.”

“The truth is, children, I believe my stock is almost exhausted.”

“Oh, no, it is not,” said Ruth. “I dare say you have at least a thousand and one on hand, as many as the Sultan's wife's sister had.”

“Well, before you spoke, Ruth, I was thinking of Elizabeth Marsden and Ella Alstine. Elizabeth and I were of an age, and she always seemed just like a sister to me. But do look, Ruth, and see how many purl I have knit since I narrowed, and then put in a piece of red yarn for a mark, so that I shall not have to trouble you again.”

Ruth hastened to comply with her request, as she well knew that it would occasion her aunt great uneasiness to have a round more or less than the prescribed number occur between the narrowings, and thus mar the exact and even slope with which the long-seamed worsted stocking she was knitting approached the ankle.

“There, aunt,” said she, “I have narrowed and put in the mark, so now tell us of Elizabeth Marsden and Ella Alstine.”

“I do not know why it is, but those two girls have been right before me, as it were, ever since we took tea. Mr. Marsden, Elizabeth's father, had no other house-keeper but her, after his wife died, though she was only sixteen, and there was no need of it, for from that hour Elizabeth, though she had always been a gay, volatile girl, appeared to have all the judgment and prudence of a woman of thirty. The household affairs were conducted with all their former neatness and regularity, and she exerted herself to have every thing wear a look of cheerfulness, so that her father might not give way to despondency and gloom. The gay and almost child-like expression of her countenance changed to a kind of grave sweetness, which was easy enough to perceive, though difficult to describe, and her voice, which one could often hear about house before her mother died, singing snatches of some cheerful song in clear, bird-like notes, grew to be low and subdued, yet so sweet and thrilling as to exercise a strange power over those who heard it even in common conversation, and much more so when she used to sing with her father his favorite evening hymn before they parted for the night. Elizabeth was not eminently beautiful, but to me her face was one of the most pleasing and interesting I ever saw, and the manner in which she parted her rich, jet-black hair over her forehead, pure as the white dove's breast, and compressed the curls that once flowed down her neck ready to play with every breeze into one heavy, glossy braid, was in perfect keeping with the new character into which she had so suddenly, yet gracefully glided. She had neither brother nor sister, but Ella Alstine, an orphan, who had been in the family a year when her mother died, and who was at that time only seven years of age, received from her the affection of a sister, and the watchful tenderness of a mother. Ella, who was a very beautiful child, repaid her care by the docility and sweetness of her disposition, and by her warm and confiding affection.

A girl so lovely and estimable as Elizabeth was not likely to be without her admirers, and I knew that she received an offer of marriage from the son of the richest farmer in the place, one from a respectable tradesman, and another from a young clergyman, soon after he entered upon the discharge of his duties as colleague to the aged pastor under whose ministry the people of the place had sat for more than half a century. She felt and acknowledged their worth, but none of them possessed the talisman that had power over the rich treasure of her affections. She had reached the age of twenty-

ty-seven, and people of her acquaintance began to think they should soon put her on the list of irreclaimable old maids, when a gentleman, by the name of Philip Randolph, who possessed a talent for painting, took up his summer residence near Mr. Marsden's, for the purpose of sketching some of the fine views in the neighborhood. As he was wealthy there was no necessity for his practising his favorite art for the sake of a livelihood, yet he pursued it with as much ardor as if it had been his sole means of support. From a steep eminence not far from Mr. Marsden's house he had described some fine scenery, which would afford material for a superb landscape; but as he could almost look into the windows when perched on the top, and would himself be a very conspicuous object to the inmates, he did not like to convey thither his easel and other necessary implements for the prosecution of his design, without first speaking to the proprietor. For this purpose he called one afternoon after tea. Elizabeth was alone, Mr. Marsden having been called away on business, and Ella being gone to spend the day with a young friend, several miles distant. The young artist was struck with the quiet, bust-like beauty of Miss Marsden, and she, on her part, thought she had never seen so noble a figure, and a countenance so spirited and intelligent. He possessed fine conversational talents, and was led gradually to touch upon those higher chords of feeling and sentiment which exalt human nature, and which he soon found were fully understood and appreciated by Elizabeth. He had never felt in more perfect good humor with himself, which naturally caused him to entertain the same feeling as regarded his companion. It was an hour or more before Mr. Marsden returned, who of course offered no objection to his appropriating the spot which he had found most favorable for sketching the landscape. As Randolph was about to take leave, a neighbor who was passing, called to say that he had just come from Mrs. Gray's, and that her daughter Mary being indisposed, Ella had concluded to remain all night.

When Randolph returned to his room, he took a pencil sketch from his portfolio which he intended to transfer to canvas, but the image of Elizabeth Marsden haunted him, and sitting down by the table and leaning his head on his hands, he gave himself up to musings on the sweet and quiet beauty of her countenance, so in keeping with the repose of her manners and the calm, silvery tones of her voice. From this time, wherever he directed his course, he was sure at length to find himself in the lane, shaded with a few patriarchal elms that led to Mr. Marsden's front door. It was not without alarm that Elizabeth, who had imagined she was out of danger from any shaft shot from Cupid's bow, felt that she was every day becoming more and more interested in the handsome artist. Strange as it may seem, she now for the first time experienced the sentiment of love, sincere, fervent and engrossing, though a partook of the repose of her character. Randolph, impetuous in all things, soon told his tale of love, and drew from her the confession of her own regard.

“You must be Jane's escort,” said Elizabeth to Ella, alluding to me, and at the same time she accepted Randolph's offered arm.

During the walk she mentioned to him what she believed to be the state of his affections, and then, without one upbraiding word, released him from his engagement. At first he was overwhelmed with confusion, and made some half intelligible protestations of esteem. “I doubt you not,” said she, “but recollect, Mr. Randolph, that in the union we at one time contemplated, esteem should be accompanied with a warmer sentiment, or there would be little chance for happiness. I indulged in a dream from which I soon awoke. You love Ella, and she loves you in return. I shall see you happy together, and shall rejoice more in your and her happiness than I should in my own.”

Randolph's heart was too full to express his gratitude in words, but he raised her hand to his lips and kissed it with fervor. I never saw a greater change in a person than there was in him when he and Elizabeth rejoined. His heart seemed to be brimful of rapturous delight, which overflowed in eloquent remarks upon the beauty of the scenery and the loveliness of the calm and quiet evening, which was gathering together a rich drapery of gold and purple clouds where the sun was just setting. I could attribute such a sudden change in his appearance to only one cause. I imagined that he had proposed to Elizabeth, and that she had accepted his proposal. I think Ella's thoughts glanced the same way, for she became silent and thoughtful. Elizabeth drew my arm within hers, and soon contrived to leave the lovers together. We walked slowly toward the house where we arrived while twilight still brightened the western sky. But when Randolph and Ella joined us night had put on her jeweled garments, and the crescent moon shone like a silver diadem upon her brow. I imagined that Ella appeared almost sad; but Elizabeth, who could judge better, knew that the calm, deep happiness which now filled her bosom could not be expressed by the almost infantine joyousness, which, heretofore, had seemed to spread around her an atmosphere sparkling with sunbeams.

“And did Ella ever know that Randolph had been engaged to Elizabeth?” inquired Ruth.

Six weeks had elapsed before Mary Gray was fully convalescent, before which she had been unwilling to part with Ella. Randolph was at Mr. Marsden's when she arrived. Beautiful as had been the creation of his fancy, it did not come up to the original. I am sensible that I cannot find language in which to place her before you, so that you can have at all an adequate idea of her extreme loveliness. There was such richness yet delicacy in the blending of the lily and rose in her complexion, such grace in the flow of her soft, glossy curls, among which sunbeams seemed nestling, such radiance in the smiles that hovered on her lips, and spread into the softest of dimples at either corner—above all there was such an expression of joyousness in her large hazel eyes—such an indication in every motion, every look, that existence was to her as yet but a fairy dream, that the beholder while gazing with delight on her beauty, felicit in witnessing so much innocent gaiety that had its source in a heart full of fresh and pure feelings.

Ella had heard nothing of Elizabeth's engagement, and, in truth, it was a secret which had not yet transpired, probably because it was an event entirely unsuspected, even by the match-making portion of the community. The first emotions of Randolph at sight of this beautiful and fascinating creature were of almost rapturous delight. He afterward said, that he never till that moment felt the sudden appearance of a young beauty to a sunburst. But his rapture was only for a moment. When Elizabeth, with her fine countenance lit up with serene joy, turned to him for the purpose of introducing him to her adopted sister, he experienced such an instantaneous and painful revulsion of feeling as to banish every drop of blood from his lip and cheek. It did not escape the eye of his betrothed, who, with the quick apprehension for which love is proverbial, attributed it to the true cause. A pang, keen as if an arrow feathered with lightning had been sent through her heart, for a moment slightly convulsed her features, and then they resumed their usual serene and placid expression. “I might have foreseen this,” she said mentally, and her resolution was at once taken. Under the influence of those noble and self-sacrificing sentiments which had so long been familiar to her, she did not sink. Randolph was a man of honor, and though the sight of Ella made him at once sensible that he had mistaken the nature of his sentiments as regarded Elizabeth, he struggled hard to discipline his feelings as to submit to what he conceived to be his fate, with so good a grace as not to betray the real state of his heart to her who possessed his warmest esteem. But to a being so impulsive such a task was impracticable. Ella's lightest footstep, the bare sound of her voice, which drives a man into one corner of his pew, and makes him think the devil is after him.”

ANECDOTE OF DR. RUSH. When he was a young man, he had been invited to dine in company with Robert Morris, Esq., a man celebrated for the part he took in the American Revolution. It so happened that the company had waited some time for Mr. Morris, who on his appearance, apologized for detaining them, by saying that he had been engaged in reading a sermon of a clergyman who had just gone to England to receive orders. “Well, Mr. Morris,” said the Doctor, “how did you like the sermon?” I have heard it highly extolled.” “Why, Doctor,” said he, “I did not like it at all. It was too smooth and tame for me.” “Mr. Morris,” replied the Doctor, “what sort of a sermon do you like?” “I like, sir,” replied Mr. M., “that kind of preaching which drives a man into one corner of his pew, and makes him think the devil is after him.”

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Elizabeth soon became sensible that the more passionate sympathies of Ella's nature began to be called forth by the daily companionship of Randolph, and that gushes of deep and holy feeling which till now had slept, needed only the inspiration of his presence to clothe themselves in the garb of fervent and eloquent language, for as her love as yet wore the mask of friendship, it was neither timid nor reserved.

The resolution which Elizabeth took at first did not waver. She only waited to acquire the necessary fortitude to speak to Randolph on the subject with composure, and as her exertions were sincere and earnest, she soon felt herself sufficient to her self-imposed task.

As I have said before, I was near Elizabeth Marsden's age, and I used frequently to spend a few days with her at her father's. It so happened that I went the very day she had determined to come to an explanation with Randolph. She welcomed me with her usual sweetness and cheerfulness, but I was struck with the paleness of her countenance, and there were times when she appeared to be absent and thoughtful. Though when in the presence of Elizabeth and Ella, Randolph experienced feelings in which there was a strange blending of pain and rapture, he could not form the resolution to absent himself for a single day.

When he first entered the lane that led to the house, I perceived a sudden flush cross the pale features of Elizabeth, while a look of radiant joy lit up the countenance of Ella.

“Well, I've heard tell of isters afore,” says he, “but this is the first time I've seed 'em, and perhaps I'll know what thar made of afore I git out of town.”

Having expressed this desperate intention, he cautiously approached a plate, and scrutinized the uncased shell-fish with a gravity and interest which would have done honor to the most illustrious searcher into the hidden mysteries of nature. At length he began to soliloquize on the difficulty of getting them out, and how queer they looked when out.

“I never seed any thin' hold on so—takes a-mazin' site of screwin', hoss, to get 'em out, and aint they slick and slip'y when they does come? Smooth as an eel!” I've a good mind to give that feller lodgin's, jest to realize the effects, as uncle Jess used to say about spekulation.”

“Well, sir,” was the reply, “down with two bits!” exclaimed the Sucker, “now takes a-mazin' site of screwin', hoss, to get 'em out, and aint they slick and slip'y when they does come? Smooth as an eel!” I've a good mind to give that feller lodgin's, jest to realize the effects, as uncle Jess used to say about spekulation.”

“Two bits!” exclaimed the Sucker, “now comes, that's stickin' it on rite strong, hoss, for isters. A dozen on 'em aint nothin' to a chicken, and there's no gittin' more'n a picayune apice for them. I've on'y re-alized forty-five picayunes on my first ventur' to St. Louis. I'll tell you what, I'll gin you two chickens for a dozen, if you'll conclude to deal.”

A wag, who was standing by indulging in a dozen winked to the attendant to shell out, and the offer was accepted.

“Now mind,” repeated the Sucker, “all fair—two chickens for a dozen—you're witness, mister,” turning at the same time to the wag.

“Two bits!” exclaimed the Sucker, “now comes, that's stickin' it on rite strong, hoss, for isters. A dozen on 'em aint nothin' to a chicken, and there's no gittin' more'n a picayune apice for them. I've on'y re-alized forty-five picayunes on my first ventur' to St. Louis. I'll tell you what, I'll gin you two chickens for a dozen, if you'll conclude to deal.”

“Swallow alive as I'm a Christian.”

“You Sucker hero had opened his mouth with pleasure a moment before, but now it stood open. Fear—a horrid dread of he didn't know what—a consciousness that all wasn't right, and ignorance of the extent of the wrong—the uncertainty of that moment was terrible. Urged to desperation he faltered out—

“What on airt's the row?”

“Did you swallow it alive?” enquired the wag.

“I swallowed it jest as he gin it to me!” shouted the Sucker.

“You're a dead man!” exclaimed his anxious friend; “the creature is alive and will eat right through you,” added he in a most hopeless tone.

“Git a pizen pump and pump it out!” screamed the Sucker, in a frenzy, his eyes glaringly starting from their sockets. “Oh, gracious—what'll I do?—It's got hold of my innards, already, and I'm dead as a chicken!—do somethin' for me, do—don't let the infernal sea-tot eat me afore your eyes.”

“Why didn't you put some of this on it?” enquired the wag, pointing to a bottle of strong pepper sauce.

The hint was enough—the Sucker, upon the instant, seized the bottle, and, desperately wrenching out the cork, he swallowed half the contents at a draught. He fairly squealed from its effects, and gasped, and blowed, and pitched and twisted